

# POLITICO CALIFORNIA PLAYBOOK

BY JEREMY B. WHITE, CARLA MARINUCCI, ALEXANDER NIEVES AND  
GRAPH MASSARA

Presented by Tobacco Free Kids

## Message

**From:** Carla Marinucci and Jeremy B White  
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**Sent:** 9/19/2019 1:17:47 PM  
**To:** Jordan, Deborah  
[Jordan.Deborah@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** POLITICO California Playbook:  
CALIFORNIA vs. TRUMP on car  
rules — NAPOLITANO out at UC —  
NEWSOM signs AB5 but GIG fight  
continues — MCCARTHY faults  
DEMS on homelessness

**THE BUZZ:** When your day starts with Donald Trump and Gavin Newsom going at it on Twitter, you know it's time for the latest episode of D.C. versus Sacramento: A Four-to-Eight-Year Saga.

**"This is simply inaccurate," Newsom slapped back half an hour after Trump touted** his administration's long-anticipated move to yank California's enhanced auto emissions regulation authority, saying it would make cars "safer and much less expensive." The businessman president also worked in a threat to automakers — "without this alternative to California, you will be out of business" — suggesting he still resents car companies that infuriated him by cutting a side deal with California.

**Soon after his staff hit "send," Newsom was standing alongside California Attorney General Xavier Becerra** and Air Resources Board chief Mary Nichols. The common theme: the hypocrisy and shortsightedness of the Trump administration, which they said was selling out conservative ideas like federalism and free enterprise — "I don't know what the hell has happened to the Republican Party," Newsom said — while denying the market's inevitable shift away from oil and gas-powered cars.

**"Every single one of these companies knows where the consumer is going and where the world is going ... and that's the elimination of the internal combustion engine,"** Newsom said. He argued Trump's intervention is "about the oil industry, period, full

stop," even though that sector — still quite prolific and politically powerful in California — is "coming to an end."

**And this isn't just about business plans. As Newsom noted, it's also a political clash** over who gets to shape and dominate the 21st century transportation economy: "Our leadership and influence in the rest of the world," he warned, are at stake, and he punctuated that point with a jab at Trump: "We are winning," Newsom said. "He is losing."

**STEP BACK: " Trump's war with California moves to new level," by POLITICO's Katy Murphy, Debra Kahn and Jeremy B. White:** "As he threatens to yank California's prized authority to set auto-emissions standards and to intervene so that homelessness does not 'destroy' Los Angeles and San Francisco, President Trump has been working overtime this past week to put the most influential state in the nation in its place.

**"Trump's latest moves have turned up the dial on an epic power struggle** with the iconically blue state in which he is wildly unpopular. The conflict with California been a hallmark of his presidency, featuring clashes over everything from immigration to health care to environmental protections."

**DIFI'S MOVE: "Feinstein, Carper, Cantwell demand docs related to DOJ auto collusion probe," by POLITICO Pro's Anthony Adragna.**

**BUENOS DÍAS, good Thursday morning.** A Sacramento court is hosting the opening round this morning of a legal battle over California's new requirement that candidates disclose their tax returns if they want to appear on primary ballots.

**— QUOTE OF THE DAY:** "This is the fight of a lifetime for us. We have to win this." **ARB chair Mary Nichols, who said she's been keeping her law license active for a clash like the one unfolding over auto rules.**

— **BONUS QOTD:** "He thinks of himself as kind of a potentate, and if the auto companies don't follow the whim of the potentate, they can be tortured by the forces of justice. So that's an abuse of power in addition to being a bad idea." **The inimitable former Gov. Jerry Brown on Trump.**

— **TWEET OF THE DAY: Rep.@KatieHill4CA:** "Seems like Trump's solution to a lot of things is rounding people up... As an expert on homelessness, I speak with authority when I say: he's wrong. Simple as that."

— **WHERE'S GAVIN?** Nothing official announced.

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#### TOP TALKERS

— **"Anti-vaccine protesters are likening themselves to civil rights activists," by POLITICO's Mackenzie Mays:** "The approach reflected the level of desperation among families staunchly opposed to vaccinating their children — a desperation that peaked Friday night when an activist threw a menstrual cup with what appeared to be blood at several state senators during floor session."

— **"UC President Janet Napolitano to step down," by the LA Times' Teresa Wantanabe:** "Napolitano, who has battled a recurrence of breast cancer, made the announcement at the UC regents meeting at UCLA. 'It was a tough decision,' Napolitano said but added that 'the university will benefit from some fresh blood.'"

— **RENDON WRITES THE NYTIMES:** "Your reporters adeptly described the progressive policies we pursue, but the reality is that

most of them have nothing to do with the despot in the White House," Assembly Speaker **Anthony Rendon** tells the Gray Lady.

— **OBAMA IN THE BAY: "Obama tells SF audience that 'nuance' in politics is cool," by the SF Chronicle's Joe Garofoli.**

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## ' THE TRUMP ERA

— **FEDS' HOMELESS RESPONSE:** The need for federal intervention on homelessness has been a theme of Trump's California swing, and he offered some heretofore lacking detail yesterday about what that could mean: the EPA will be "putting out a notice" that San Francisco and Los Angeles are violating environmental rules with the amount of waste — like needles — flowing into the sea, Trump told the pool.

— **ON THE BORDER:** The president visited the border barrier in Otay Mesa after his San Diego fundraiser yesterday. Per the pool, he marveled that the wall "can't be climbed" — he knows because "20 mountain climbers" were enlisted to try — and noted that "you can fry an egg on" the heat-resistant structure. He mused that some 500 miles of wall could be completed, depending on terrain.

— **MCCARTHY ON HOMELESSNESS:** Trump also reiterated the feds may "need to get involved" to fix the "disaster" of homelessness in Los Angeles and San Francisco. While California Dems have their doubt about Trump's genuine desire for a solution, House Minority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** yesterday praised the president for "calling out" an issue that "derives directly from the Democrats themselves."

**Previewing some likely 2020 campaign themes for his fellow California Republicans,** McCarthy focused on law-and-order leniency efforts like Proposition 47 (which decriminalized drugs) and seemingly Proposition 57 (which made more offenders eligible for parole; McCarthy said "Prop 53," but we think he misspoke), noting

that law enforcement has lost the hammer to compel people into treatment. The shining counterexample to misgovernance in Los Angeles and San Francisco? San Diego Mayor **Kevin Faulconer**, whom McCarthy praised for "a commonsense conservative view."

— **"Trump's new national security adviser is Bay Area native, UC Berkeley Law alum,"** by the SF Chon's Tal Kopan.

— **"A Closer Look at Nancy Pelosi's Plan for Lower Drug Prices,"** by the American Prospect's David Dayen: "[W]hile [H.R. 3] does advance the ball, and includes some ideas designed to put Republicans in a tough spot, ultimately there are still many back doors and ambiguous points."

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**CHILE 2019:** Join APEC leaders, global CEOs, visionary entrepreneurs, and thought leaders from around the world at **APEC CEO Summit Chile 2019**, the largest and most influential annual meeting of business and government leaders in the Asia-Pacific region, from November 14-16. POLITICO is a premier media partner of the summit. Learn more [HERE](#).

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## **PRESIDENTIAL PURSUIT**

— **TROUBLE FOR KAMALA: "New poll finds Harris' support has plunged 13 points in Iowa,"** by POLITICO's Natasha Korecki:

"Notably, the survey, commissioned by Focus on Rural America and taken after the third presidential debate in Houston, was conducted by Harris' chief pollster, David Binder."

— **"Kamala Harris slips in a new California poll,"** by KQED's Marisa Lagos: "California Sen. Kamala Harris has slipped to fourth place among likely Democratic voters in her home state, according to a new poll commissioned by KQED — the first survey of likely California primary voters taken since last week's Democratic presidential debate."

— **BERNING THE HOUSE:** Sen. **Bernie Sanders** released his housing plan yesterday, which his California team highlighted for its "outsized effect" here given its \$500 million for services, its fortification of renters' protections beyond California's soon-to-be-signed renters' bill and its call for ending "exclusionary and restrictive zoning." You can take a look at Sanders' plan here.

— **MAYORS FOR PETE:** West Sacramento Mayor **Christopher Cabaldon**, Palm Springs Mayor **Rob Moon**, West Hollywood Mayor **John D'Amico**, El Cerrito Mayor **Gabriel Quinto**, Sierra Madre Mayor **John Harabedian**, Woodside Mayor **Daniel Yost** and Santa Monica Mayor **Gleam Davis** were among the scores of mayors to endorse South Bend Mayor **Pete Buttigieg** for president yesterday, cutting into Harris's California supremacy. They explained why they're on board in this USA Today op-ed.

#### ' CAMPAIGN MODE

— **ANOTHER IN CA-53:** Democrat **Janessa Goldbeck** is the latest to jump into the increasingly crowded race for outgoing Rep. **Susan Davis's** seat. Goldbeck is a Marine Corps veteran and an out queer woman.

#### ' GAVINLAND

— **THE POST-AB5 FIGHT:** "Newsom signs California labor law though gig companies' fight continues," by POLITICO's **Jeremy B. White**: "Newsom signed legislation Wednesday morning enshrining a landmark California court ruling to declare more workers employees, rather than independent contractors, launching the next phase of heated negotiations with the tech industry."

**"But Newsom made clear that negotiations continue, with a tech industry ballot threat still menacing Sacramento:** ""I will convene leaders from the Legislature, the labor movement and the business community to support innovation and a more inclusive economy by stepping in where the federal government has fallen short and granting workers excluded from the National Labor Relations Act the

right to organize and collectively bargain," he wrote in his signing message.



#### **CALIFORNIA AND THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR**

— **TURBULENT WATERS: "Demise of key environment bill could escalate California's water wars," by CalMatters' Ben**

**Christopher:** "Newsom has said he won't approve Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins' bid for a legal backstop against environmental rollbacks by the Trump administration. And Washington is poised to reduce protections for endangered fish species in the state's largest watersheds. The result may be the heightened regulatory uncertainty that opponents of the bill said they hoped to avoid."

— **"Police chief, Kensington officials investigated by DA over ballot-petition mishandling," by East Bay Times' Nate Gartrell and Thomas Peele.**

— **"Camouflaged Vaping Devices Are Hoodwinking Parents And Schools," by California Healthline's Anna Maria Barry-Jester:**

"[T]he crowded market of devices and accessories that has sprung up around vaping is filled with products that seem tailored to teenagers who want to keep their use secret — and according to parents and teachers, are all but impossible to keep out of kids' hands."

— **"San Jose set to become largest U.S. city to enact natural gas ban,"** by the Merc's Emily DeRuy: "On Tuesday, the City Council approved a proposal from Mayor Sam Liccardo and four of his fellow council members to create an ordinance barring natural gas in new single-family homes, low-rise multifamily buildings and detached granny flats beginning next year."

' SILICON VALLEYLAND

— **"Ilhan Omar urges Twitter to take down Trump's false tweet,"** by POLITICO's Cristiano Lima: "Omar said her staff has contacted Twitter regarding the president's post, which echoed Trump's repeated, debunked claims that American Muslims celebrated the [Sept. 11, 2001] attacks."

— **"Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg pays rare D.C. visit to meet with lawmakers,"** by WaPo's Tony Romm: "The meetings — confirmed by Facebook on Wednesday — are part of Zuckerberg's first known visit to the nation's capital since he testified for 10 hours in front of lawmakers last year in response to a series of privacy scandals at the tech giant."

— **WEED AND TEQUILA: "'This Is Not the Way Everybody Behaves.' How Adam Neumann's Over-the-Top Style Built WeWork,"** by WSJ's Eliot Brown: "Since [Adam] Neumann co-founded WeWork — recently renamed We Co. — with Miguel McKelvey nine years ago, he has led with unusual exuberance and excess. ... Now many of the same qualities that helped fuel his company's breakneck growth in the private market are piling up as potential liabilities as the company prepares to go public — helmed by a CEO who looks little like a typical public-company chief."

— **" Apple's VP of communications is leaving the company,"** by Recode's Kara Swisher.

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**NEW—POLITICO's UNITED NATIONS PLAYBOOK:** The 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly will jam some of the world's



most influential leaders into four blocks in Gotham. POLITICO's man-about-town Ryan Heath will take you inside UNGA—revealing juicy details from the lighter-side of the gathering and insights into the most pressing global issues facing decision-makers today. [Sign up for U.N. Playbook.](#)

#### ' CANNABIS COUNTRY

— **"Marijuana banking bill might have easier time passing Senate with these new hemp rules,"** by McClatchy's Lesley Clark:

"Measures making it easier for hemp growers to sell their product may be tucked into legislation that would allow banks to conduct business with state-approved marijuana growers and retailers — giving the pot industry a potential boost with a skeptical Senate."

#### ' MIXTAPE

— **"Dad 'doted' on baby son, mom says. Fentanyl killed them both, California cops say,"** by the Sac Bee's Don Sweeney.

— **" 'There is strength in numbers': Concord renters form Contra Costa's first city-wide tenants union,"** by the East Bay Times' Annie Sciacca.

— **"Outraged father speaks out after son with autism is placed in handcuffs in Lancaster,"** by ABC7's Jovana Lara.

— **"Kaiser CEO on strike: 'We will always make sure we're taking care of our members,'"** by the Sac Bee's Cathie Anderson.

— **"Playing in Mexico just weeks ago, 29-year-old Rays rookie Johnny Davis endures rags-to-riches path to MLB,"** by USA Today's Bob Nightengale.

#### ' MEDIA MATTERS

**Luis Gomez**, formerly of the SD-UT and an indispensable journalism jobs newsletter, has landed at Report for America. He'll be their social media manager; you can follow him at [@RunGomez](#).

#### ' TRANSITIONS

**IF YOU MISSED IT ON MONDAY:** Former **Rep. Dana Rohrabacher** told Mother Jones' Dan Friedman that he can't wait until the cooling-off period for former representatives ends in January so he can start lobbying. We commend him for his honesty.

#### ' BIRTHDAYS

**Andrea Saul**, policy comms at Facebook ... **Sarah Marie Miller** ... **Spencer Garrett** ... **Christina Iskandar** ... **Sonali Desai** ... **Teddy Scheinman**, an editor for CNN Opinion and a Pacific Standard alum (h/t Nadia Szold)

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A message from Tobacco Free Kids:

There's a public health crisis spreading across the country - and it's small enough to fit in your kid's pocket.

E-cigarettes are hooking a new generation, thanks to Big Tobacco tricks like slick marketing, massive doses of nicotine, and thousands of kid-friendly flavors. Now, 5 million kids - including 1 in 4 high schoolers - use e-cigarettes. This growing public health emergency threatens decades of progress in lowering youth tobacco use. And it's getting worse.

We're building a nationwide movement to confront this crisis with the bold action our kids deserve. We must take flavored e-cigarettes off the market, stand up to companies like JUUL, and stop this escalating epidemic before it's too late. [Learn More.](#)

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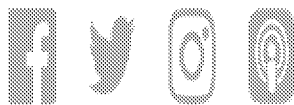
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